

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 264742  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13  
ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE  
-----073088 050106Z/64

O 050054Z NOV 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 264742

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON KOREA SUGGESTS USG SEEKS  
OVERTHROW OF PARK CHUNG-HEE

1. WE HAVE JUST SEEN LONG ARTICLE ON KOREA BY PETER WEBB  
AND LARS-ERIK NELSON BEING CARRIED IN NOVEMBER 7  
ASIAN EDITION OF NEWSWEEK. ARTICLE DOES NOT APPEAR  
IN DOMESTIC U.S. EDITION.

2. ONE PASSAGE APPEARS TO SUGGEST THAT USG MAY SEEK  
OVERTHROW OF PARK GOVERNMENT. PERTINENT QUOTATION  
FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE: SOME PESSIMISTS WENT EVEN FURTHER,  
PREDICTING THAT ONLY A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN SEOUL  
COULD ALTER THE SITUATION. THE ONLY WAY THIS IMPASSE  
IS GOING TO BE RESOLVED IS IF THERE IS SOMEONE OTHER  
THAN PARK CHUNG HEE LEADING THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SOUTH KOREA, ONE OFFICIAL TOLD NEWSWEEK. SOUTH KOREAN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 264742

SENSITIVITIES TO THIS MOOD IN WASHINGTON COULD WELL  
TRIGGER THE KIND OF POLITICAL UPHEAVAL THAT WOULD LEAD  
TO THE REPLACEMENT OF PARK. IF THE GENERALS OVER  
THERE WHO ARE LOYAL TO HIM BEGIN TO SEE THAT SANTA CLAUS  
IS TAKING HIS BAG OF GOODIES SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY MAY  
WELL CONCLUDE THAT PRESERVING THE GOODWILL OF THE U.S.  
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRESERVING PARK CHUNG HEE.

UNQUOTE.

4. ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM SEOUL, MADE INQUIRY TO DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 3. IN RESPONSE, KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT IT IS NOT USG POLICY TO SEEK REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE OR OVERTHROW OF ROKG.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN SEOUL IF DEEMED USEFUL. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESIDENT, PLOTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE264742  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RGRICH,JR.:JCM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770407-1095  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771192/aaaadayc.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d6859521-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 704721  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON KOREA SUGGESTS USG SEEKS OVERTHROW OF PARK CHUNG-HEE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOPN, KS, US, (PARK CHUNG HEE)  
**To:** SEOUL  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d6859521-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009